

THE STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF CAMERON

BE IT REMEMBERED on the 8th day of APRIL, 1997, there was conducted a REGULAR Public Meeting of the Honorable Commissioners' Court of Cameron County, Texas, at the Courthouse thereof, in the City of Brownsville, Texas, for the purpose of transacting any and all business that may lawfully be brought before the same.

THE COURT MET AT:

4:00 P. M.

PRESENT:

GILBERTO HINOJOSA
COUNTY JUDGE

PEDRO "PETE" BENAVIDES
COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT NO. 1

CARLOS H. CASCOS, C.P.A.
COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT NO. 2

COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT NO. 3

HECTOR PEÑA
COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT NO. 4

Hilda V. Treviño Deputy
COUNTY CLERK

ABSENT:

JAMES R. MATZ

The meeting was called to order by Judge Gilberto Hinojosa.

The Court considered the following matters as posted and filed for Record in the Office of the County Clerk on
April 4, 1997, at 1:02 P.M.:

(1) AUTHORIZATION TO OPEN BIDS/REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

- a) Annual Bid No. 1540 - Mowing of Community Parks, and
- b) Pickup (in stock) - Engineering Department.

Upon motion by Commissioner Peña, seconded by Commissioner Benavides and carried unanimously, the Bids/Request for Proposals were opened.

THE BIDS/REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOLLOW:

(1) AUTHORIZATION TO OPEN BIDS/REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

(b) PICKUP (IN STOCK) - ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

THE BIDS/REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS IS AS FOLLOW:

(2) EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon motion by Commissioner Peña, seconded by Commissioner Benavides and carried unanimously, the Court met in

Executive Session at 4:10 P.M. to discuss the following matters:

- a) Confer with County Counsel to discuss the settlement on the case styled Mary Lou Munivez vs. Luis V. Saenz, B-96-032, in the United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas; pursuant to Vernon Texas Code Annotated (V.T.C.A.), Government Code, Section 551.071 (1)(A)(B);
- b) Confer with County Counsel to discuss the possible lease for the Justice of the Peace, the Constable Precinct No. 1, the Tax Office Personnel, et. al. Juvenile Probation Officers of 313 Queen Isabella Boulevard, Port Isabel, Texas, or other possible sites; pursuant to Vernon Texas Code Annotated (V.T.C.A.), Government Code, Section 551.071 (1)&(2);
- c) Deliberation regarding the Real Property concerning the possible lease of the land for a portable building for Ham-Tex, to be located at the Cameron County Airport; pursuant to Vernon Texas Code Annotated (V.T.C.A.), Government Code, Section 551.072;
- d) Confer with County Counsel to discuss and authorize to cease the negotiations with Grupo Xesa of property located at Isla Blanca Park; pursuant to Vernon Texas Code Annotated (V.T.C.A.), Government Code, Section 551.071 (1)&(2);
- e) Confer with County Counsel regarding the hiring of outside Counsel for the Los Tomates International Bridge Project; pursuant to Vernon Texas Code Annotated (V.T.C.A.), Government Code, Section 551.071 (2);
- f) Deliberation regarding the Real Property concerning the possible renovations of the Brownsville Clinic and the San Benito Health Clinic, as recommended by the Texas Department of Health; pursuant to Vernon Texas Code Annotated (V.T.C.A.), Government Code, Section 551.072;
- g) Confer with County Counsel regarding the Cameron County Health Department working with the Brownsville Independent School District, Campus Care Center, and the Brownsville Community Health Center on a Healthy Steps Grant, which would increase Health Care Services for children; pursuant to Vernon Texas Code Annotated (V.T.C.A.), Government Code, Section 551.071 (2);
- h) Confer with County Counsel for the authorization to initiate the litigation on forfeited vehicles; pursuant to Vernon Texas Code Annotated (V.T.C.A.), Government Code, Section 551.971 (1)(A);
- I) Confer with County Counsel for the possible litigation between Cameron County and the Professional Computer Software Services; pursuant to Vernon Texas Code Annotated (V.T.C.A.), Government Code, Section 551.071 (A); and
- j) Deliberation regarding the Real Property concerning the possible purchase of 1.5 acres located at J.C. Dunn Business Park, La Feria, Cameron County, Texas; pursuant to Vernon Texas Code Annotated (V.T.C.A.), Government Code, Section 551.072.

At this time, Judge Hinojosa asked Mr. Bob Clark, Brownsville resident, for the invocation and Commissioner Cascos to lead the Court and the audience in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Upon motion by Commissioner Benavides, seconded by Commissioner Peña and carried unanimously, the Court reconvened in

Regular Session at 5:20 P.M.



(3) ACTION RELATIVE TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

- a) Confer with County Counsel to discuss the settlement on the case styled Mary Lou Munivez vs. Luis V. Saenz, B-96-032, in the United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas.

Judge Hinojosa recommended that County Counsel should be authorized to settle the case with Ms. Mary Lou Munivez, in the sum of \$25,000.00, disposing of any and all claims pending in the Court plus, any and all claims which she may have against the County regarding said matter.

Upon motion by Commissioner Benavides, seconded by Commissioner Peña and carried unanimously, County Counsel was authorized to settle the case with Ms. Mary Lou Munivez, in the amount of \$25,000.00, disposing of any an all claims pending in the Court, plus any and all claims against the County regarding the case styled Mary Lou Munivez vs. Luis V. Saenz, B-96-032, in the United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas.

- b) Confer with County Counsel to discuss the possible lease for the Justice of the Peace, the Constable Precinct No. 1, the Tax Office Personnel, et. al. Juvenile Probation Officers, at 313 Queen Isabella Boulevard, Port Isabel, Texas, or other possible sites.

Judge Hinojosa recommended that the County Judge should be authorized to execute the Lease, pursuant to the terms discussed in Executive Session.

Commissioner Peña moved that the Status Report by County Counsel be acknowledged and that the County Judge be authorized to execute the Lease for the Justice of the Peace, Constable Precinct No. 1, the Tax Office Personnel, et. al. Juvenile Probation Officers, at 313 Queen Isabella Boulevard, Port Isabel, Texas.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Benavides and carried as follows:

AYE: Commissioners Benavides, Peña and Judge Hinojosa

NAY: Commissioner Cascos.

At this time, Commissioner Cascos clarified that the reason for his opposition was due to the parking situation of the building and explained that the Lessor acknowledged that he would provide additional parking, but noted that the parking area would be a block away.

- c) Deliberation regarding the Real Property concerning the possible lease of the land for a portable building for Ham-Tex to be located at the Cameron County Airport.

Mr. Doug Wright, Cameron County Counsel, recommended that the Status Report by the Property Management Coordinator should be acknowledged regarding said matter.

Upon motion by Commissioner Benavides, seconded by Commissioner Peña and carried unanimously, the Status Report by the Property Management Coordinator was acknowledged regarding the Real Property concerning the possible lease of the land for a portable building for Ham-Tex to be located at the Cameron County Airport.

- d) Confer with County Counsel to discuss and authorize to cease negotiations with Grupo Xesa of the property located at Isla Blanca Park.

Commissioner Cascos recommended that the Status Report by County Counsel should be acknowledged and that the negotiations should be continued regarding said matter.

Commissioner Cascos moved that the Status Report by County Counsel be acknowledged and that the negotiations be continued with Grupo Xesa regarding the property located at Isla Blanca Park.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Benavides and carried unanimously.

- e) Confer with County Counsel regarding the hiring of outside Counsel for the Los Tomates International Bridge Project.

Judge Hinojosa recommended that the County should be authorized to enter into a Contract with Bickerstat and Associates, et. al. to represent the County in negotiations on the Los Tomates Bridge Project, under the terms as discussed in Executive Session.

Upon motion by Commissioner Cascos, seconded by Commissioner Benavides and carried unanimously, the County was authorized to execute a Contract with Bickerstat and Associates, et. al. to represent the County in negotiations for the Los Tomates International Bridge Project, along the terms as discussed in Executive Session.

- f) Deliberation regarding the Real Property concerning the possible renovations of the Brownsville Clinic and the San Benito Health Clinic, as recommended by the Texas Department of Health.

Mr. Doug Wright, Cameron County Counsel, recommended that the Status Report by the County Health Director should be acknowledged regarding said matter.

Commissioner Benavides moved that the Status Report by the County Health Director be acknowledged regarding the possible renovations of the Brownsville Clinic and the San Benito Health Clinic as recommended by the Texas Department of Health.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Peña and carried unanimously.

- g) Confer with County Counsel regarding the Cameron County Health Department working with the Brownsville Independent School District, Campus Care Center, and the Brownsville Community Health Center on a Healthy Steps Grant which would increase Health Care Services for children.

Judge Hinojosa recommended that the Status Report by the County Health Director should be acknowledged regarding said matter.

Upon motion by Commissioner Peña, seconded by Commissioner Benavides and carried unanimously, the Status Report by the County Health Director was acknowledged regarding the Cameron County Health Department working with the Brownsville Independent School District, Campus Care Center, and the Brownsville Community Health Center on a Healthy Steps Grant, which would increase Health Care Services for children.

- h) Confer with County Counsel for the authorization to initiate litigation on forfeited vehicles.

Mr. Doug Wright, Cameron County Counsel, recommended that the Status Report by County Council should be acknowledged regarding said matter.

Commissioner Benavides moved that the Status Report by County Council be acknowledged regarding the authorization to initiate litigation on forfeited vehicles.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Peña and carried unanimously.

- I) Confer with County Council for the possible litigation between Cameron County and the Professional Computer Software Services.

Mr. Doug Wright, Cameron County Counsel, recommended that the Status Report of County Council should be acknowledged regarding said matter.

Upon motion by Commissioner Benavides, seconded by Commissioner Peña and carried unanimously, the Status Report by County Council was acknowledged regarding the possible litigation between Cameron County and the Professional Computer Software Services.

- j) Deliberation regarding the Real Property concerning the possible purchase of 1.5 acres located at J. C. Dunn Business Park, La Feria, Cameron County, Texas.

Judge Hinojosa recommended that the property be purchased, in the amount of \$50,000.00, and that County Council should be authorized to prepare the necessary documents regarding said matter.

At this time, Judge Hinojosa explained that the property was being purchased, in order to construct a County Building which would contain the Offices of the Justice of the Peace, the Constable, the Sheriff, the Tax Assessor-Collector and the County Clerk-s Office. He added that the Department of Public Safety would possibly be housed at said building as well as any interested State Law Enforcement Agencies.

Commissioner Peña moved that the Real Property of 1.5 acres, located at J. C. Dunn Business Park, La Feria, Cameron County, Texas, be purchased and that County Council be authorized to prepare the necessary documents.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Cascos and carried unanimously.



(9) AUTHORIZATION TO APPOINT MR. DAVID WISE TO THE VACANT JUSTICE OF THE PEACE POSITION OF PRECINCT NO. 5, PLACE 2

Commissioner Peña moved that Mr. David Wise, Harlingen, Texas, be appointed to the vacant Justice of the Peace Position of Precinct No. 5, Place 2.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Benavides and carried as follows:

AYE: Commissioners Benavides, Peña and Judge Hinojosa

NAY: None

ABSTAINED: Commissioner Cascos.

At this time, Commissioner Cascos stated that the suggestion had been discussed to assess the Justices of the Peace Positions Countywide and added that a study should have been done to redistrict and realign the Justices of the Peace Positions.

At this time, Judge David Wise, Justice of the Peace Precinct No. 5, Place 2, expressed his gratitude to the Court, the Selection Committee, and the community and briefly highlighted his career and accomplishments.

At this time, Mr. Manny Vela, Attorney at Law, presented the following Members of the Selection Committee:

Ms. Norma Menchaca, Harlingen, Texas,

Trooper T. J. Cespedes, Texas Highway Patrol,

Mr. Edward Niño, Harlingen, Texas,

Mr. S. R. Campbell, Harlingen, Texas,

Mr. Gil Theo, Harlingen, Texas, and

Mr. Jose Luis Cavazos, Harlingen, Texas.

Not Present:

Mr. Tim Gillis, Harlingen, Texas, and

Mr. Nacario Martinez, Harlingen, Texas.



**(10) IN THE MATTER OF THE CAMERON
COUNTY INSURANCE COMMITTEE-S
RECOMMENDATION OF THE
EMPLOYEES-BENEFITS/HEALTH INSURANCE
PROGRAM AND AUTHORIZATION TO NEGOTIATE
THE CONTRACT (TABLED)**

At this time, Mr. Mark Yates, County Auditor, explained that the current Health Insurance carrier had not provided satisfactory service to the County regarding the payment of claims, and added that the Insurance Committee had interviewed six (6) insurance companies to serve as the Insurance Administrator. He stated that said companies were not a hundred percent (100%) compatible with the current carrier and recommended that the County should retain the current carrier on a quarterly basis, in order to extend more time to continue the review process, due to the time frame of the Insurance Anniversary on May 1, 1997.

Commissioner Cascos expressed concern whether the recommendation was the consensus of the Committee Members to retain the current carrier and questioned the time frame.

Mr. Yates responded that an outside consultant was utilized in the assessment of the Proposals and stated that the members present could express their point of views if they differed.

Judge Hinojosa clarified that the recommendation of the County Auditor was to retain Anthem Health Insurance on a quarterly basis and examine if the problems would be corrected, noting his opposition to the recommendation.

At this time, Judge Darrell Hester, 197th District Court, stated that the Anthem Health Insurance had recently retained a new Chief Executive Officer and had acknowledged the problems and had presented fair and impressive commitments to improve the service to the County. He added that the carrier had agreed to continue with the County on a three (3) month basis upon satisfaction of the County and stated that the time would allow the Committee to review and reconcile the Proposals.

Commissioner Cascos clarified that the understanding was that the Committee was unanimously recommending the current carrier for ninety (90) days and that the Proposals received were not parallel to the current carrier, noting that the request of the Insurance Committee should be honored.

Judge Hinojosa expressed his opposition as to the utilization of the outside consultant and the current insurance carrier and added that the company had made many commitments when they were hired that were not fulfilled. He stated that the consequences were severe to the County, if the company was retained, and recommended that only one (1) quarter should be given to the current carrier, in order to allow the Commissioners=Court to schedule a workshop to discuss the matter. Judge Hinojosa added that the Proposals narrowed down by the Committee should be presented to the Court to be reviewed for a final decision.

Commissioner Cascos questioned whether the current provider was on the Ashort list@ to be presented to the Court and the County Auditor responded that the current provider was on the short list. Commissioner Cascos expressed concern to whether the company would be automatically excluded from the list due to their quality of service.

Judge Hinojosa proposed that short list be reviewed, with or without the current provider, and that the ninety (90) day extension be made, in order to schedule the Workshop.

Commissioner Peña questioned the May 1, 1997 deadline and the County Auditor responded that the May 1, 1997, deadline was an anniversary, in which enrollment commenced, noting that there would be two (2) enrollments for this year due to the situation.

Mr. Yates stated that the Anthem Health Insurance premium was going to increase and that it would cost the County an additional 5.4% in the subsequent year's Budget, plus \$200.00 per head annually for the Insurance Policy. He reported that Anthem Health Insurance offered the lowest interest rate compared to the other proposed companies.

Commissioner Cascos suggested that the Health Insurance Committee should take an active role at the Workshop, in order to assist the Court in reaching a consensus in determining the best Proposal.

At this time, Judge Hinojosa recommended that the Item be Tabled with the understanding that the Commissioners would accept the short list recommended by the Committee and that a Workshop be scheduled, within the next thirty (30) days, to allow the presentations to be made, as to the needs of the County. He added that the County should request that the Anthem Health Insurance extend their services for a period of ninety (90) days, noting that if the request was denied, the company would be removed from the short list.

Mr. Doug Wright, Cameron County Counsel, stated that the Court needed to address the issue of the recommendation made by the Committee as reflected on the Agenda Item.

Judge Hinojosa clarified that the recommendations by the Court were being instructed to the County Auditor, in terms of scheduling the Workshop and discussing the matter with the Anthem Health Insurance Company and that the process was simply being explained.

Mr. Yates stated that he would report the response of the Anthem Health Insurance Company to the Court and would assist the County Judge's Office in setting up the Workshop.

Upon motion by Commissioner Peña, seconded by Commissioner Cascos and carried unanimously, this Item was (TABLED).



(7) **ADOPTION OF A PROCLAMATION DESIGNATING
APRIL 5, 1997, THROUGH APRIL 11, 1997, AS
COMMUNITIES IN SCHOOLS WEEK® IN CAMERON
COUNTY**

At this time, Mr. Ricardo Gonzalez, San Benito Independent School District, briefly highlighted the activities and the vision of the Communities in Schools Week®.

Commissioner Benavides moved that the Proclamation designating April 5, 1997, through April 11, 1997, as Communities in Schools Week® in Cameron County, be adopted.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Peña and carried unanimously.

The Proclamation is as follows:

(32) AUTHORIZATION TO INCREASE THE AUTO ALLOWANCE FOR DEPUTY CONSTABLES FOR PRECINCT NO. 2 AND PRECINCT NO. 4

At this time, Constable Conrado Cantu, Precinct No. 2, highlighted the duties and the areas being patrolled by the Deputies, which required constant travel.

Commissioner Benavides moved that the auto allowance be increased for Deputy Constables Precinct No. 2 and Precinct No. 4.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Cascos and carried unanimously.



(4) APPROVAL OF COUNTY CLAIMS

Upon motion by Commissioner Peña, seconded by Commissioner Benavides and carried unanimously, the County Claims were approved as presented by the County Auditor.

The Budget Officer's Comments Report is as follows:

(5) **IN THE MATTER OF BUDGET AMENDMENTS AND/OR SALARY SCHEDULES (TABLED)**

At this time, the County Auditor reported that there were no Budget Amendments and/or Salary Schedules for approval.



(6) **IN THE MATTER OF THE MINUTES OF MARCH 25, 1997, AND APRIL 1, 1997 (TABLED)**

Upon motion by Commissioner Cascos, seconded by Commissioner Peña and carried unanimously, this Item was (TABLED).



(11) **AUTHORIZATION TO COMMENCE THE NEGOTIATIONS WITH BI-TECH AND HEWLETT-PACKARD/IBM TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT FOR THE PURCHASING AND FINANCING OF A FINANCIAL, HUMAN RESOURCE, WORK ORDER SYSTEM, BUDGETING, GRANT MANAGEMENT, AND JOB/PROJECT, LEDGER ACCOUNTING PROGRAM**

At this time, Mr. Mark Yates, County Auditor, stated that the cost of the program needed to be further negotiated and explained that the total price of the Project would cost the amount of \$400,000.00, which could be allocated through grants and various funds, noting that the main benefits to the County would be the Remote Requisition and a Work Order Process.

Commissioner Benavides moved to commence the negotiations with Bi-Tech and Hewlett-Packard/IBM to enter into a Contract for the purchasing and financing of a Financial, Human Resource, Work Order System, Budgeting, Grant Management and Job/Project, Ledger Accounting Program.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Cascos and carried unanimously.



(8) **ADOPTION OF A PROCLAMATION DESIGNATING APRIL 7, 1997, THROUGH APRIL 13, 1997, AS A PUBLIC HEALTH WEEK® IN CAMERON COUNTY**

Upon motion by Commissioner Peña, seconded by Commissioner Benavides and carried unanimously, the Proclamation designating April 7, 1997, as A Public Health Week® in Cameron County was adopted.

The Proclamation is as follows:

(12) AUTHORIZATION TO RETAIN A WORK STUDY PROGRAM STUDENT FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS - BROWNSVILLE FOR PART-TIME EMPLOYMENT IN COUNTY COURT AT LAW NO. 2

Upon motion by Commissioner Peña, seconded by Commissioner Benavides and carried unanimously, the Work Study Program Student from the University of Texas Brownsville was retained for part-time employment in County Court at Law No. 2.

(13) AUTHORIZATION TO OPEN INTEREST BEARING, DEMAND DEPOSIT ACCOUNT (DDA) AND MONEY MARKET ACCOUNT AND A NON-INTEREST BEARING ACCOUNT WITH THE INTERNATIONAL BANK OF COMMERCE

Commissioner Benavides moved that the following Interest Bearing, Demand Deposit Account (DDA) and Money Market Account and a Non-Interest Bearing Account be opened with the International Bank of Commerce:

- a) Cameron County Treasurer; G. E. Credit Equipment Purchases, Fund No. 64, and
- b) Cameron County Treasurer; Disaster Relief Road Repair, Fund No. 23.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Peña and carried as follows:

AYE: Commissioners Benavides, Cascos and Peña

NAY: None

ABSTAINED: Judge Hinojosa.

The Resolutions are as follow:

**(28) APPROVAL OF THE AGREEMENT WITH THE
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION OF
BROWNSVILLE AND MENNONITE BUILDING
PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVE, INCORPORATED, FOR
THE PURPOSE OF AN APPLICATION TO THE STATE
OF TEXAS FOR HOME FUNDS**

Commissioner Cascos moved that the Agreement with the Community Development Corporation of Brownsville and Mennonite Building Partnership Initiative, Incorporated, be approved for the purpose of an Application to the State of Texas for Home Funds.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Benavides and carried unanimously.

The Agreement is as follows:

(15) APPROVAL OF THE PURCHASE WITHOUT THE PURCHASE ORDER, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$158.88, FROM WAL-MART STORES, INCORPORATED

Commissioner Peña moved that the Purchase without the Purchase Order, in the amount of \$158.88, from Wal-Mart Stores, Incorporated, be approved.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Benavides and carried unanimously.



(14) APPROVAL OF THE PURCHASES WITHOUT THE PURCHASE ORDER, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$178.50 FROM RIO RADIO SUPPLY AND \$119.00 FROM PUENTE FIRE EXTINGUISHER

Upon motion by Commissioner Peña, seconded by Commissioner Benavides and carried unanimously, the Purchases without the Purchase Order, in the amount of \$178.50, from Rio Radio Supply and \$119.00 from Puente Fire Extinguisher were approved.



(16) APPROVAL OF THE INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN CAMERON COUNTY GOVERNMENTAL PURCHASERS FORUM AND CAMERON COUNTY DRAINAGE DISTRICT NO. 1

Upon motion by Commissioner Peña, seconded by Commissioner Benavides and carried unanimously, the Interlocal Agreement between Cameron County Governmental Purchasers Forum and Cameron County Drainage District No. 1 was approved.

The Agreement is as follows:

**(17) IN THE MATTER OF THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN
CAMERON COUNTY AND THE HARLINGEN POLICE
DEPARTMENT TO GIVE PROSPECTIVE SHERIFF-S
DEPUTIES AGILITY EXAMS (TABLED)**

Upon motion by Commissioner Benavides, seconded by Commissioner Peña and carried unanimously, this
Item was **(TABLED)**.



**(18) APPROVAL OF THE INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT
BETWEEN CAMERON COUNTY AND THE CITY OF
SAN BENITO TO PAVE RATLIFF ROAD**

Upon motion by Commissioner Peña, seconded by Commissioner Benavides and carried unanimously, the
Interlocal Agreement between Cameron County and the City of San Benito, to pave Ratliff Road, was approved.

The Agreement is as follows:

**(19) IN THE MATTER OF THE LICENSE AGREEMENT
BETWEEN CAMERON COUNTY AND THE
HARLINGEN POLICE DEPARTMENT, TO USE
BULLET RESISTANCE VESTS FOR THE CAMERON
COUNTY CONSTABLES (TABLED)**

Upon motion by Commissioner Benavides, seconded by Commissioner Peña and carried unanimously, this
Item was (TABLED).

**(20) APPROVAL OF THE INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT
BETWEEN CAMERON COUNTY AND THE SANTA
ROSA INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT, FOR THE
SCRAPING OF THE TRACK AND ROLLING OF THE
INFIELD OF THE BASEBALL FIELD**

Upon motion by Commissioner Peña, seconded by Commissioner Benavides and carried unanimously, the
Interlocal Agreement between Cameron County and the Santa Rosa Independent School District was approved, for the
scraping of the track and the rolling of the infield of the Baseball Field.

The Agreement is as follows:

(21) IN THE MATTER OF THE CAMERON COUNTY PRO BONO PROJECT TO UTILIZE THE GARCIA ROOM, 4TH FLOOR CAMERON COUNTY COURTHOUSE, ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING, FOR OFFICE SPACE (TABLED)

At this time, Judge Hinojosa explained that the Texas Rural Legal Aide had cut back resources and were relocating their office to Harlingen, Texas, noting that there would not be a Legal Aide Office in Brownsville, Texas. He stated that the Cameron County Bar Association Pro Bono Project, in conjunction with the Texas Rural Legal Aide were housed in the Brownsville Office and added that they had requested to utilize any available space in the Courthouse, which was the Garcia Room. Judge Hinojosa expressed his support for said action, based on the valuable service that was provided to the community which allowed the Cameron County Bar Association to utilized attorneys at no cost to indigent individuals throughout the County.

Commissioner Peña stated that there were several issues regarding illegal subdivisions and questioned whether the legal services could be provided for the County and Judge Ben Neece, Municipal Court, responded that arrangements could be made between the Cameron County Bar Association Pro Bono Project and the County.

At this time, Judge Neece briefly highlighted the statistics of the Cameron County Pro Bono Project and explained why the Garcia Room was necessary.

Commissioner Peña expressed concern as to whether the Garcia Room had been previously requested by County employees and added that the County needs should be assessed before filling the available space.

Judge Hinojosa suggested that the Item be Tabled for one (1) week, in order to allow County employees to request the necessary office space.

Upon motion by Commissioner Peña, seconded by Commissioner Benavides and carried unanimously, this Item was **(TABLED)** for one (1) week.

(22) APPROVAL OF THE PROPOSED FLOOR PLANS AND RENOVATIONS FOR THE CONSOLIDATION OF THE COUNTY OFFICES IN PORT ISABEL AT 313 QUEEN ISABELLA (HIGHWAY 100)

Commissioner Peña moved that the proposed floor plans and renovations for the consolidation of the County Offices in Port Isabel at 313 Queen Isabella (Highway 100), be approved.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Benavides and carried as follows:

AYE: Commissioners Benavides, Peña and Judge Hinojosa

NAY: Commissioner Cascos as to the parking needs.

(23) APPROVAL OF THE LEASE CONTRACT WITH OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL CHURCH FOR THE BUILDING LOCATED AT 1055 MILITARY HIGHWAY, BROWNSVILLE, CAMERON COUNTY, TEXAS, FOR THE CAMERON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT WOMEN-S, INFANTS AND CHILDREN PROGRAM

Commissioner Peña moved that the Lease Contract with Our Lady of Good Counsel Church for the building located at 1055 Military Highway, Brownsville, Cameron County, Texas, be approved for the Cameron County Health Department Women-s, Infants and Children Program.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Benavides and carried unanimously.

The Contract is as follows:

(24) AUTHORIZATION TO UTILIZE LAPSE SALARIES AND ROAD AND BRIDGE FUNDS TO PROVIDE TWO (2) EXTRA HELP POSITIONS TO MEET CURRENT DEMANDS ON VEHICLE MAINTENANCE AND PROVIDE A MECHANIC DEDICATED TO THE CAMERON COUNTY PARK PROJECT

At this time, Mr. Lee Lozano, Fleet Maintenance Director, stated that one (1) position would be funded from the General Fund due to one (1) mechanic being on Workers-Compensation leave since October, 1996, and that the other position would be funded from the Engineering Road and Bridge Fund, noting that the positions were temporary.

Commissioner Peña moved that the Lapse Salaries and the Road and Bridge Fund be utilized to provide two (2) Extra Help Positions to meet current demands on vehicle maintenance and provide a mechanic dedicated to the Cameron County Park Project.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Cascos and carried unanimously.

At this time, Ms. Juanita Brodecky, Rio Hondo resident, expressed concern regarding the status and the cost of the Project.

Commissioner Cascos stated that Grant Funds, in the amount of \$450,000.00, were allocated for the hard costs and that the County was contributing the manpower and equipment, noting that the completion of the Project was anticipated for September or October, 1997. He stated that the costs of the manpower and equipment by the County were fixed costs and added that rural areas did not generate enough property taxes, in order to pay for the cost of repairing the roads.

(25) AUTHORIZATION TO ACCEPT JENIKA CIRCLE, JENIKA AVENUE, BECKY CIRCLE, TABITHA CIRCLE AND LEE ROY CIRCLE INTO THE COUNTY ROAD SYSTEM

(26) AUTHORIZATION TO ACCEPT CALLE RANCHO GRANDE EAST, CALLE SAN MARCOS, CALLE SAN MIGUEL, CALLE SAN JUAN AND CALLE SAN MATEO, INTO THE COUNTY ROAD SYSTEM

(27) AUTHORIZATION TO ACCEPT PABLO CIRCLE, REY AVENUE AND DEL VALLE AVENUE, INTO THE COUNTY ROAD SYSTEM

Commissioner Peña moved that the following roads be accepted into the County Road System:

Precinct No. 1:

Jenika Circle,
Jenika Avenue,
Becky Circle,
Tabitha Circle, and
Lee Roy Circle.

Precinct No. 4

Calle Rancho Grande East,
Calle San Marcos,
Calle San Miguel,
Calle San Juan,
Calle San Mateo,
Pablo Circle,
Rey Avenue, and
Del Valle Avenue.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Benavides and carried unanimously.



(29) AUTHORIZATION TO ISSUE A RENEWAL MOBILE VENDOR-S PERMIT TO ROBERT RAMIREZ, DOING BUSINESS AS E-Z TOWING SERVICE - PERMIT NO. 6

(30) AUTHORIZATION TO ISSUE A RENEWAL MOBILE VENDOR-S PERMIT TO ROBERT RAMIREZ, DOING BUSINESS AS E-Z TOWING SERVICE - PERMIT NO. 7

Upon motion by Commissioner Peña, seconded by Commissioner Benavides and carried unanimously, Renewal Mobile Vendor-s Permits were issued to Robert Ramirez, doing business as E-Z Towing Service - Permit No. 6 and No. 7.



(31) IN THE MATTER OF THE STANDARD LEASE AGREEMENT NINE (9) MONTHS FOR THE MOBILE VENDOR SOUTHERN CHEF CATERING FOR ATWOOD COUNTY PARK AS RECOMMENDED BY THE LEASE SELECTION COMMITTEE (REJECTED)

Upon motion by Commissioner Peña, seconded by Commissioner Cascos and carried unanimously, the Bids received were rejected and re-advertised for the Standard Lease Agreement nine (9) months for the Mobile Vendor Southern Chef Catering for Atwood County Park, as recommended by the Lease Selection Committee.



(33) AUTHORIZATION OF THE EXPANSION OF THE ELECTIONS OFFICE INTO THE EXISTING HALLWAY BETWEEN THE FRONT DOORS OF THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

Upon motion by Commissioner Benavides, seconded by Commissioner Peña and carried unanimously, the expansion of the Elections Office into the existing hallway between the front doors of the County Administrative Building was approved.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEM

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS WERE RECOMMENDED FOR ACONSENT® AND WERE EITHER RECOMMENDED BY THE DEPARTMENT HEAD, WITHIN BUDGET OR AWARDED TO THE LOW BIDDER:

Upon motion by Commissioner Benavides, seconded by Commissioner Peña and carried unanimously, the

AConsent® Agenda Items were approved as follow:

(34) APPROVAL OF TRAVEL AND/OR TRAVEL EXPENSES FOR THE FOLLOWING, SUBJECT TO FUNDS IN THEIR BUDGET:

- a) Commissioner Precinct No. 3 to attend the ARio Grande Alliance (RGA) Coordinating Council Meeting® in Albuquerque, New Mexico, on April 15-16, 1997;
- b) Parks System Director to attend a AGrand Opening® in Webb County, on April 12, 1997;
- c) Cameron Parks Director to attend a luncheon by the Texas A & M University in Hidalgo County, on April 15, 1997;
- d) Cameron Parks Director to attend a AGrand Opening and Luncheon® in Willacy County, on April 19-21, 1997;
- e) Two (2) Health Department employees to attend the ATuberculosis Network Project Nursing Meeting® in Edinburg, Texas, on April 7, 1997;
- f) Chief Juvenile Probation Officer to attend a AChiefs- Meeting and Juvenile Probation ISP Conference® and to review the staffing and program of the Nueces County Juvenile Boot Camp in Corpus Christi, Texas, on April 22-24, 1997;
- g) Juvenile Detention Superintendent and a Child Care Worker to attend the ATexas Juvenile Detention Association Annual Lineworkers Conference® in Austin, Texas, on April 27-30, 1997;
- h) Two (2) Tactical Intelligence Agents to do investigation on motel records in Port Lavaca, Texas, on March 26-27, 1997;
- I) Computer Center Director to attend the A1997 Texas Association of Government Data Processing Managers Convention® in Clear Lake, Texas, on April 1-4, 1997;
- j) Director of Management, County Engineer and Road System Committee Member(s) to visit the Department of Public Works in Bexar and Nueces County, on April 2, 1997; and
- k) County Clerk to attend the ACounty Government Day® in Austin, Texas, on April 16, 1997.

(35) AUTHORIZATION TO PURCHASE ONE (1) 2 TON/LONG BED/V8/PICKUP TRUCK FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT FROM THE HOUSTON GALVESTON AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS INTER-LOCAL AGREEMENT

There being no further business to come before the Court, upon motion by Commissioner Peña, seconded by Commissioner Benavides and carried unanimously, the meeting was **ADJOURNED**.



APPROVED this **29th** day of **April, 1997**.

GILBERTO HINOJOSA
COUNTY JUDGE

ATTEST:

JOE G. RIVERA,
COUNTY CLERK AND EX-OFFICIO CLERK
OF THE COMMISSIONERS' COURT OF
CAMERON COUNTY, TEXAS

